

Socialists to accept or continue to hold the first position than the presentation of eugenics divorced from slum clearance and re-housing at low rentals.*

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To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—In your April issue, Mr. Guy Porter says: "Mr. Allaun writes as though there is little connexion between money and ability. Let him test it by taking a long voyage first-class and returning third. Or by living a month in the most expensive hotel in any town and a month in the cheapest."

I have some acquaintance with Atlantic liners. Every year great numbers of Americans visit Europe. If Mr. Porter imagines that the persons of most intellect and refinement are those who come in the first cabins, I can only say that there is no accounting for tastes. I should say that the average first-cabin passenger admirably illustrates what Oscar Wilde called "the great Darwinian principle of the survival of the vulgarest."

As for hotels, I have just been reading Halévy's *Life of Nietzsche*, who travelled all over Europe, but frequented the poorest hotels, because he was too poor to go to any others. Almost at the end of his life, when all his chief works had been published, he stayed at Nice, but his biographer says:

"He took a disgust for the poor pension in which he lodged: its furniture was touched by too many hands, its sitting-room degraded by being common property. Then the cold weather came. Being poor, he could not get the warmth he needed; he froze, bitterly regretting the stoves of Germany."

Does Mr. Porter seriously suppose that there was at that time, in any first-class hotel in Nice, a man of the genius of Nietzsche?

Paris is the greatest town in the world for hotels, restaurants, and cafés. Nearly all Frenchmen of genius frequent them. Does Mr. Porter imagine that it is in the fashionable hotels of the Rue de Rivoli that such men are to be found? If he does, let him read Sisley

Huddleston's *Bohemian, Literary, and Social Life of Paris*, which gives full details on the point in dispute. He will there learn that great writers, painters, and musicians are often to be met in poor cafés in Montmartre or Montparnasse, but very seldom in any fashionable place.

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To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—I agree with Mr. Kerr that useful ability often receives inadequate financial reward. Without going back to Nietzsche, one can find living examples. Also money may come to the undeserving, as in the case of a winner in the Irish sweep. But such exceptions do not disprove the general rule that the possession of money is, on the average, an indication of ability of one kind or another. This ability may be combined with other characteristics which Mr. Kerr dislikes, and Mr. Kerr will not find such an one a congenial companion. I would remind him that there are many and more generally appreciated forms of useful ability than the artistic. My point is that people as a rule do not pay money excepting in return for something they want to get, and provided that the recipient of the money delivers the goods they don't worry over matters of personal taste which have nothing to do with the transaction. For example, I have bought and enjoyed Oscar Wilde's plays, although I cannot quote Oscar Wilde as a reliable judge as to what constitutes refined conduct. As for the expensive hotels in the Rue de Rivoli, and the alleged scarcity therein of Frenchmen of marked ability, there is an obvious explanation. These hotels are offshoots of New York, London and Berlin, and most Frenchmen, whether of marked ability or not, prefer a more purely French environment.

In conclusion—What proportion of the people in *Who's Who* travel steerage? Do the leading lights in "the army, the navy, the Church and the stage" patronize the cheapest hotels? Will the delegates to Ottawa go third class?

And, if not, is it not because they have, by the exercise of unusual ability of one kind or another, got command of sufficient money to go first?

But that is not to say that Mr. Kerr would necessarily enjoy their society.

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* Since amentia is markedly more frequent in the country than in towns, there is little reason to think that it is caused by slum conditions.—ED.

